

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

June 20, 2005



## REFUGEE COORDINATOR LETTER NUMBER 05-05

TO: COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT SOCIAL SERVICES ALLOCATION  
FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2005

This letter provides counties with proposed allocations for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2005 Refugee Employment and Social Services (RESS) Program. The Proposed Notice of RESS Allocations to States for FFY 2005 funds was published in the *Federal Register* on May 27, 2005. Copies of the Notice may be accessed on the Funding Opportunities page of the Refugee Programs Bureau's (RPB) web site at <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/refugeeprogram/>.

The state's proposed RESS allocation for FFY 2005 is \$8,161,149, which is a decrease of \$1,199,029 from last year's final allocation of \$9,360,178. The state's proposed allocation includes set-aside funds in the amount of \$206,254 to provide citizenship and naturalization services to the state's older refugee population. The federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) determines the states' RESS allocations based on each state's refugee population in proportion to the national population of refugees who have been in the United States (U.S.) three years or less as of October 1, 2004, and adjusted for estimated secondary migration.

Section IV of the FFY 2005 RESS Notice explains the basis for the estimates of the state's refugees, Amerasians, victims of a severe form of trafficking, entrants, and Havana parolee populations. The ORR data for these groups in California is in line with RPB data. In December 2004, ORR requested states voluntarily submit data in relation to the number of asylees who were granted asylum and received RESS services between October 1, 2001, and September 30, 2004. The RPB submitted asylee data for the requested time period to ORR to be considered. Of the 6,232 names submitted, ORR was able to verify 3,406 asylees to be added to the total population for the state. Section IV of the Notice also allows for those states that did not voluntarily submit data in December to send any data on the number of asylees within 30 days of the date of the Notice. These submittals may change the final allocations at the time of the release of the final notice.

Counties are determined eligible to receive RESS funds if they have received approximately 500 refugee arrivals during the most recent five-year period. To better reflect the current population of new arrivals, those refugees who have the most need, the five-year time frame has been adjusted from federal fiscal years the most recent five period. Therefore, counties are determined eligible based on refugee arrivals from June 2000 through May 2005. Using this threshold, 11 counties are eligible for FFY 2005 RESS funds: Alameda, Fresno, Los Angeles, Merced, Orange, Sacramento,

San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Stanislaus, and Yolo. However, San Diego County does not receive RESS funding due to the Wilson/Fish Alternative Project. Therefore, only 10 counties are eligible for FFY 2005 RESS funds.

The Wilson/Fish Alternative Project is operated in San Diego County through Catholic Charities under direct contract with ORR. The funding for this project is taken from the State's RESS allocation. The exact amount of funding for the project has not yet been determined by ORR, however, the RPB has prepared the proposed FFY 2005 RESS allocations using the same amount as was awarded last year to the Wilson/Fish Alternative Project (\$1,120,849). Should the amount for this year's Wilson/Fish Alternative Project, once determined, differ from last year's amount, allocations for the counties could be affected.

After setting aside a portion equal to 15 percent of the state's allocation for state administrative costs, FFY 2005 RESS funds have been allocated to counties according to the number of adult refugees receiving cash assistance in each eligible county who have resided in the U.S. for 60 months or less. State law requires the California Department of Social Services to use this methodology. Data used in the formula was obtained from the most recent Medi-Cal Eligibility Determination System (MEDS) Report dated April 22, 2005. Proposed allocations are shown in the enclosures spreadsheet.

As mentioned above, the FFY 2005 RESS grant includes a set-aside in the amount of \$206,254. The purpose of the set-aside is to provide citizenship and naturalization preparation services for the elderly refugee population in the state. The FFY 2005 RESS Notice does not specify the details on this set-aside or the age parameters of the population to be served; however, since ORR's definition of older refugee is those who are age 60 years or older, the RPB prepared proposed allocations based on the number of refugees who are age 60 years or older and who are currently receiving aid in each county. (See enclosed spreadsheet, Columns 6-8). The RPB determined aided data to be the most useful to determine allocations since citizenship and naturalization services should be provided to those refugees who may be at risk of losing, or have already lost, their Supplemental Security Income benefits. However, these services should not be limited to those currently on aid.

Counties are cautioned to use the proposed RESS and proposed set-aside allocations for planning purposes only. Final allocations are subject to federal funds availability and may be less than amounts indicated in the proposed notice. In addition, the final allocations will be based on the most recent MEDS data available at the time the final notice is published by ORR. Because MEDS data fluctuates, final county allocations may be different than proposed allocations. The RPB anticipates that the final notice will be published by ORR in the next few months.

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Should you have questions regarding the proposed allocations or other information in this letter, please contact Ms. Janet Sandlin, Manager of the Refugee Policy Unit at (916) 654-1246 or via e-mail at [Janet.Sandlin@dss.ca.gov](mailto:Janet.Sandlin@dss.ca.gov), or Ms. Camille Ancona, Analyst, Refugee Policy Unit at (916) 653-7785 or via e-mail at [Camille.Ancona@dss.ca.gov](mailto:Camille.Ancona@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:  
Thuan Nguyen  
On June 20, 2005

THUAN NGUYEN, Chief  
Refugee Programs Bureau

Enclosure

**PROPOSED REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES (RESS) ALLOCATION  
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2005**

\$	7,954,895	Proposed FFY 2005 RESS Standard Funds
\$	206,254	Proposed Elderly Citizenship Set-Aside
\$	8,161,149	Adjusted Proposed State Allocation
\$	(1,120,849)	Estimated Funding for San Diego Wilson/Fish Project <sup>1</sup>
\$	7,040,300	Adjusted Proposed State Allocation
\$	(1,025,107)	State Administrative Funds (15% of Adjusted Proposed State Allocation minus Set-Aside) <sup>2</sup>
\$	6,015,193	Funds to be Allocated to Counties
\$	5,808,939	Standard Funds
\$	206,254	Set-Aside Funds
\$	6,015,193	

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
County	Allocation Number	STANDARD FUNDS			ELDERLY CITIZENSHIP SET-ASIDE			Total County RESS Allocation	Total County Adminstrative Costs @15% maximum	County RESS Service Dollars
		Adult refugees receiving RCA/CalWORKs who have been in the U.S. 60 months or less <sup>3</sup>		Proposed County Standard Funds Allocation	Number of Refugees currently on aid age 60 Years or Older <sup>4</sup>		Proposed Elderly Set-Aside Allocation			
		Number	% of Total		Number	% of Total				
Alameda	RESS0501	240	3.17%	\$ 184,143	1,910	6.0%	\$ 12,375	\$ 196,518	\$ 29,478	\$ 167,040
Fresno	RESS0502	515	6.79%	\$ 394,427	1,381	4.3%	\$ 8,869	\$ 403,296	\$ 60,494	\$ 342,802
Los Angeles	RESS0503	3,719	49.05%	\$ 2,849,285	11,146	34.8%	\$ 71,775	\$ 2,921,060	\$ 438,159	\$ 2,482,901
Merced	RESS0504	118	1.56%	\$ 90,619	283	0.9%	\$ 1,856	\$ 92,475	\$ 13,871	\$ 78,604
Orange	RESS0505	366	4.83%	\$ 280,572	3,687	11.5%	\$ 23,719	\$ 304,291	\$ 45,644	\$ 258,647
Sacramento	RESS0506	1,985	26.18%	\$ 1,520,780	4,239	13.2%	\$ 27,226	\$ 1,548,006	\$ 232,201	\$ 1,315,805
San Diego	RESS0507	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,754	8.6%	\$ 17,738	\$ 17,738	\$ 2,661	\$ 15,077
San Francisco	RESS0508	100	1.32%	\$ 76,678	2,582	8.1%	\$ 16,707	\$ 93,385	\$ 14,008	\$ 79,377
Santa Clara	RESS0509	333	4.39%	\$ 255,012	3,352	10.5%	\$ 21,657	\$ 276,669	\$ 41,500	\$ 235,169
Stanislaus	RESS0510	98	1.29%	\$ 74,936	347	1.1%	\$ 2,269	\$ 77,205	\$ 11,581	\$ 65,624
Yolo	RESS0511	108	1.42%	\$ 82,487	324	1.0%	\$ 2,063	\$ 84,550	\$ 12,683	\$ 71,867
Total		7,582	100.00%	\$ 5,808,939	32,005	100.0%	\$ 206,254	\$ 6,015,193	\$ 902,280	\$ 5,112,913

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> The allocation for San Diego County will be diverted to a Wilson/Fish Alternative Project. The exact amount of funding for the project has not yet been determined by ORR. San Diego County will receive funding for the Elderly Citizenship Set-Aside only.

<sup>2</sup> State Administrative Funds were calculated using Standard funds only to maximize Elderly Set-Aside funding to the counties. Standard Funds minus Wilson/Fish equals \$6,834,046.

<sup>3</sup> One month data from Medi-Cal Eligibility Determination System (MEDS) File Report, dated April 22, 2005.

<sup>4</sup> Elderly data from MEDS database for April 2005. Number of refugees currently on aid who are age 60 years or older without regard to time in the U.S.